The inventory variation has also been given effect to in the accounts of the Company for the year 2002-2003 as well as reported in the Annual Report.

Entry of Private Companies in retailing

2275. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private oil companies which have been given authorisation for the setting up of retail outlets for petrol;

(b) the number of retail outlets which have been set up by each of those companies; and

(c) whether ONGC has also been allowed to set up retail outlets and if so, the details thereof including the number of such outlets set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government have granted authorisation for marketing the transportation fuel to two private companies namely; M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL). In addition, in principle approval has been given to M/s. Shell India Pvt. Ltd., subject to fulfilment of conditions.

(b) M/s. EOL has commissioned three Retail Outlets (ROs) whereas M/s. RIL has not commissioned any RO, so far.

(c) Oil an Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been allowed to set up 1,100 ROs but has not set up any RO, so far.

Major helicopter accidents involving ONGC

2276. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major helicopter accidents involving the staff of ONGC which took place during the last three years;